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A Corps employee inspects damage to a switchgear cubicle after an electrical fire broke out June 19 at Detroit Dam in the Willamette Valley. A board of inquiry has been formed that will investigate the cause of the blaze.



Corps of Engineers Photo



COMMANDER'S COLUMN

Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp took command as the 52nd Chief of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers May 29. I have served with him in previous assignments and I have been deeply impressed by his personal courage, candor and commitment. As he begins his leadership of the Corps, the Chief and his team developed the priorities and tenets that will guide the Corps during his command. I'd like to highlight some of his thoughts and look at how they track very well with our District's Focus for Success.



Col. Thomas O'Donovan


Support GWOT and expeditionary missions. The Portland District has provided outstanding support for the Global War on Terror, with more than 100 employees volunteering to deploy to Afghanistan or Iraq – some for multiple missions. Not only do these people bring critical skills to the districts they're deployed to, they gain valuable experience to make them even more effective in their jobs here when they return. As I've mentioned before, it's not just those who deploy that are accomplishing the mission. For many reasons, some of us are unable to deploy overseas and choose to remain in place and help the District accomplish the tasks that are still our responsibility. You are helping as much as anyone who deploys, often by adding tasks to your current workload so we can accomplish our missions. "Thank you" is inadequate to express my pride in all of your efforts.

Enable Gulf Coast recovery. Effectively prepare for and respond to disasters. While the Corps has always been ready to serve the nation in times of crisis, Hurricane Katrina showed us how extensive that need can be. Again, Portland District employees deployed, often on very short notice, to the Gulf Coast to aid in the recovery mission. In fact, only St. Paul District sent more employees to Louisiana and Mississippi than Portland District. The lessons learned during the Katrina recovery are helping us better refine our emergency operations procedures and preparedness. We may not experience a hurricane in the Pacific Northwest, but we've seen what flooding can do, and earthquakes are always a threat. New communications

equipment, emergency kits and notification procedures are in place to help ensure we are ready if an emergency occurs in our District.

T.E.A.M. culture. The Chief is committed to providing outstanding service to the American public, and T.E.A.M., or Trust, Excellence, All About People and Motivation, outlines his philosophy on how best to accomplish that. The District's *Focus For Success*, comprised of integrity, teamwork, relationships, results and reputation track extremely well with the Chief's philosophy. Integrity is critical when building

"Trust"; "Excellence" is the reputation we seek to earn; "All About People" deals completely with relationships, whether with customers, stakeholders, members of the public or each other; finally, "Motivation" is that positive outcome that stems from doing a job well, and doing the right job right. When combined with the other tenets, motivation will lead us to achieve world-class results.

The Corps has been led by some of the finest officers and engineers around, and Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp, whom I know personally, is certainly among his peers in that regard. I am excited about his commitment to the Corps as an entity, as a culture and as a collection of some of the finest employees I have had the opportunity to serve with. 

Essays!

CORPS'PONDENT



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Portland District

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Fire damages Willamette Valley project

Electrical arcing downs operations at Detroit powerhouse

By Diana Fredlund, Public Affairs Office

An electrical fire broke out June 19 at the Detroit Dam powerhouse, damaging critical electrical equipment. No one was injured in the fire, but District experts estimate the damage at nearly \$5 million. Power generation is expected to remain off-line at Detroit and Big Cliff dams for several months.


The fire caused extensive damage to electrical equipment below the second power generator unit. The cause was determined to be a massive arcing failure that lasted for several minutes, generating extreme heat.

"This was explosive electrical arcing and not a standard fire," said Erik Petersen, Willamette Valley Project operations manager. "It's not unlike a large

bolt of lightning making contact with a high-voltage substation transmission line, continuing for several minutes. We are grateful that no one was hurt."

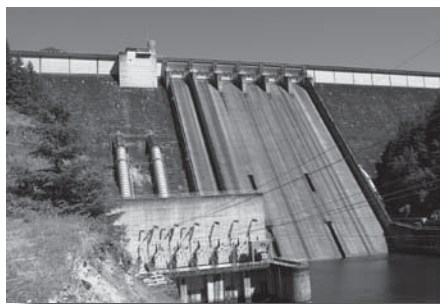
Cleanup began after the air quality was checked and an initial damage assessment was completed. "It was several days before we could enter the powerhouse, Petersen said. "Using portable lights we could see soot everywhere, but could only enter with full-face respirators, Tyvek suits and gloves."

Decontamination and cleaning is expected to take about three weeks after the contract is awarded, but replacement of the electrical switchgear and other components will take longer, Petersen said. No estimates of when power generation can be restored are yet available. Equipment at Big Cliff Dam was undamaged by the blaze, but electricity generated at Big Cliff can only be sent through the Detroit switchgear that was damaged.

Since June 19 District employees have worked with contractors and local authorities to safeguard equipment and people. "The team assembled in quick order and proved their value in stabilizing the situation, evaluating risks and keeping people from harm," stated Col. Tom O'Donovan, Portland District commander. "Their quick thinking is a credit to their training and to the Corps." 



Investigators check relays in the Detroit Dam control room. The relay data may help show what caused an electrical arcing fire to break out.



Detroit Dam and powerhouse.



One of the breaker units involved in the fire shows the extent of heat and damage sustained by the facility.





Dredge chief finds satisfaction in Iraq duty reflected in the children's eyes

By Amy Echols, Public Affairs Office

Some days you come home from work, feeling good about your accomplishments. Some days you might wish for a success that you can touch and see. Jerry Gompers found his job successes during his tour of duty in Iraq in the faces of local children using the new school he helped build.

"Seeing how excited these kids were when they entered their new school and working side-by-side with the locals to complete the project—that's job satisfaction," said Gompers, chief of Dredging Operations for Portland District. Memories of his six-month tour as deputy commander for the Gulf Region Division's Central District remain vivid. Responsible for almost 1,300 Corps construction projects, Gompers likened his professional growth to being hit by a stream of water from a fire hydrant. "You can get four to five years' of experience in just a year as you hit the ground running."

As a reservist with the Navy Civil Engineer Corps, Gompers started his tour with two weeks of training and outfitting at Fort Jackson, S.C., when

he became familiar with his assigned gear, including weapons and body armor. Next up came a week in Kuwait for close-quarters small arms training, where Gompers served as a convoy commander. After that he reported to his assignment at Camp Victory in Baghdad, where several surprises awaited.

"The sticky mud would add inches of height to your shoes in no time, even with just a little rain," Gompers said. "Then the ground would go hard as concrete and dusty again - it was one way or another," explained Gompers. "On the other hand, the accommodations were like a hotel. The rooms were clean, new and comfortable. I now know why it's nicknamed Camp Cupcake."

Gompers typically started his day with an early morning run down the compound's access road and back again. Once in the office, he held a morning huddle with his team to prioritize tasks. Energized by the positive results in the field, Gompers often worked late into the evening. The Central District contracting and quality assurance specialists and other staff work with local Iraqi officials and tribal



Dredging Operations chief Jerry Gompers is right at home after 17 years working and managing maintenance and operations at the U.S. Government Moorings in Portland.

Postcards from Iraq

One Corps. One Mission.

By Commander Jerry Gompers, USNR
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Deputy Commander
Gulf Region Division Central District, Baghdad

Seven months ago, I left my civilian job at Portland, Oregon, where I work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers only to don my Navy uniform to serve as Deputy Commander for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division Central District in Iraq.

This unique, historic assignment has been challenging and personally rewarding. We work to build hospitals, schools, police and fire stations, roads, water and wastewater treatment plants, electric networks and generation facilities. Our Iraqi contractors show tremendous courage every day getting to the job site as they face threats of kidnapping, extortion, and murder of their loved ones.

They report to work because they believe in a better Iraq and want a brighter future for their children and grandchildren. I am very grateful for the opportunity to wear the Naval Civil Engineer Corps military uniform and honored to work

alongside our dedicated USACE civilians who make up the majority of our work force here. When they go outside the wire to visit projects, they face exactly the same dangers as our military folks.

There is only one Corps and our mission is working shoulder to shoulder with Iraq's new government to improve living conditions in neighborhoods throughout this country. I'm confident we're making a difference.

Essayons!
Can do!

Jerry Gompers
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Portland, OR



CDR Jerry Gompers



Corps of Engineers Photos

As part of the Postcards from Iraq project, military and civilian personnel can tell their own stories. The project was started by Kansas City public affairs chief and Army Reserve Soldier Thomas O'Hara. To read more postcards written by Corps employees about their work in Iraq, visit <http://www.grd.usace.army.mil/news/postcards/index.asp>.


leaders to complete critical infrastructure for five remote forward operating bases, including public health centers, roads, sewers and sewage facilities, schools, power plants and gas stations. These FOBs are equivalent to a District resident office, complete with staff and resources.

"We worked daily with Iraqis to permit, design and coordinate these projects. Then we'd keep a low profile at construction sites—showing a presence without taking over," Gompers said. "We didn't just do their work for them; we taught them new processes, introduced new construction material, including PVC and glue to replace ductile iron for pipes." The reward was knowing they were teaching local workers how to fish, not just doing the fishing themselves, he added.

Gompers' battle cry back home to the Corps was "send the PMs!"

"With about \$2 billion in projects, support from almost all Corps' communities of practice is welcome. On top of the professional advantages, the pay increase provides additional motivation!"

Gompers' experience at Camp Victory influences his work back in Portland, where he often calls morning huddles to prioritize activities and categorizes his work much he and his team did in Iraq. He admits to making better use of resources now, pointing to a grease-board in his U.S. Government Moorings office, with lists categorized by people, communication and processes.

"We worked hard to win the Iraqis' trust, to make it safe for tribal leaders to work with us and recognize the good intentions of our efforts. Unfortunately, there is too much attention on the bad news from this war," Gompers added. "But I'd go back as a civilian too." 



DEPLOYMENT NEWS



District softball team going strong and creating bonds

By Jennifer Sowell, Public Affairs Office

The Portland District's men's softball team, the ACEs, is still in full swing after more than 35 years. While some players have retired from the game, others have continued to play through the decades. Over the years the team has gone through many changes, but the ACEs are still going strong and continuing to create lasting friendships.

"There have been many people from various offices in the Corps who have played softball for ACEs over the years," said Mike Crump, Engineering and Construction Division and ACEs first baseman.

In fact, the ACEs roster is a veritable who's who of Corps employees, including former Chief of Engineers Robert Flowers when he was an Army captain in the late 1970s.

No matter who is playing on the team, whether it be an engineer new to the Corps or a division chief, being part of a company team allows a level of camaraderie that can't always be achieved in the office.

"Playing for the ACEs is a great way to build stronger bonds with District employees outside



The ACEs gather after their doubleheader with a team fielded by The Oregonian. Beaten but undiscouraged, the team looks forward to thier next game.



of the office,” said Jeff Sedey, Engineering and Construction Division and ACEs third baseman. “It creates an opportunity to get to know employees you may not work directly with and otherwise would not know,”

Some team members who are still playing from the early days remember a time when ACEs games were packed, on and off the field.

“During the earlier years, players’ families came out to the games and everyone would go out for pizza afterward,” said Crump.

When Crump joined the team in the early 1970s, he had to wait an extra year because there were already so many players.

Through the 1990s, a number of teams comprised of Corps employees representing their branch or section who played each other in the Corps’ own Liniment League, in addition to the ACEs team. ACEs players were scattered among the office teams and the rivalries between them kept the level of friendly competition high.

“It was a very diverse group with a great representation from across the District offices,” said Don Chambers, Engineering and Construction Division and pitcher for the ACEs. “Lifetime friendships and unforgettable memories were developed that can’t be replaced and that have served the district well,” said Chambers.

The Liniment League is only a memory, leaving a consolidated team with players from a variety of District disciplines.

Teams play doubleheaders on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Delta Park for the Portland Metro Softball Association, which are managed and paid for by the players. ACEs’ current manager, Pat Duyck, organizes players for the season and maintains the team’s schedule and statistics, in addition to playing centerfield. He has played on the team for seven years and managed them for four. Duyck is also a structural engineer for the District.

“I try to keep around 15 players on the team to start the season,” said Duyck. “Since the team has been around a long time, we keep most of the same players from year to year and only pick up new players as we need them.”

“Quite often new players may start as substitutes and work into a permanent position as players retire from the game or move out of the area,” said Chambers.



Dave Stanton connects with the ball as Lance Helwig prepares to score from third base.

The team has four new players this year; Jim Herald, Office of Counsel; Rick Benoit, Dive Office; Dave Stanton, Safety Office and Dan Patla, Hydroelectric Design Center.

The office rivalries are gone and ACEs games may be less of a family event now, but the socializing and camaraderie are still a big part of the team.

“I enjoy the game, it keeps me young” said Sedey. “We play to win, but we have a good time socializing too.”

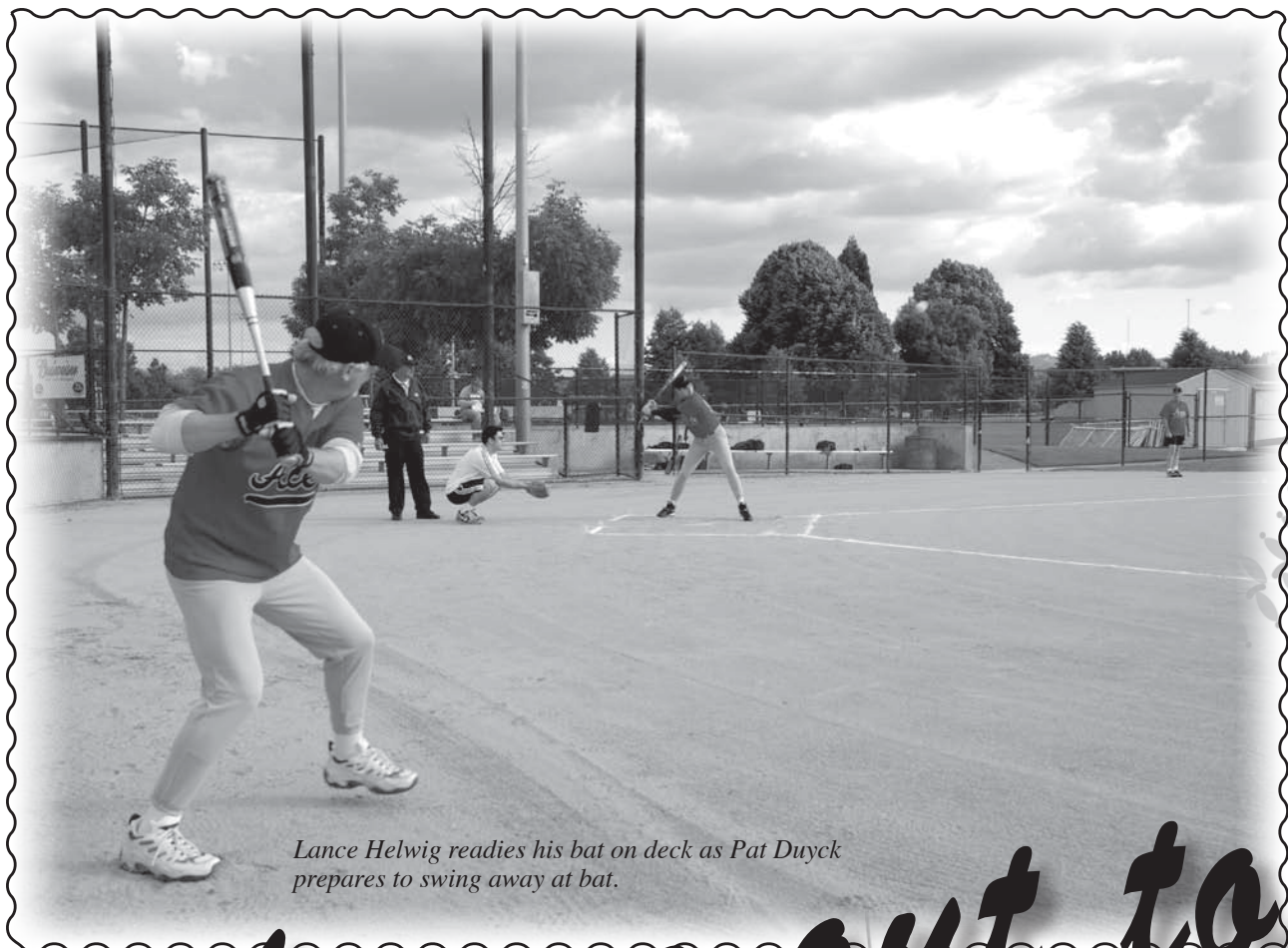
The ACEs record so far this season is 3 wins, 7 losses, putting them in third place overall out of four teams. The ACEs have had their share of winning and losing seasons over the years, and though they are competitive, the camaraderie of the team has remained the most important aspect.

“I like the people I work with, which makes it that much more enjoyable to get to play softball with them as well,” said Brandt Bannister, Engineering and Construction Division and ACEs short stop. “It makes for good team building. I also just plain love the game and I’ll play until I can no longer run.”



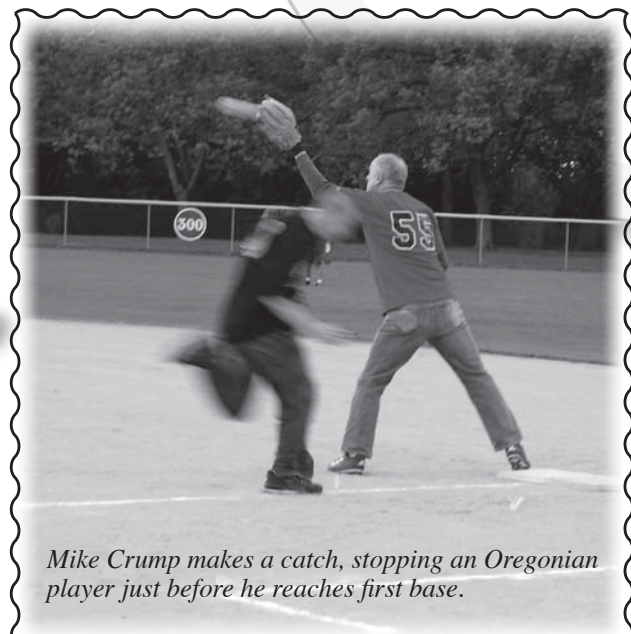
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DISTRICT ACTIVITIES



Lance Helwig readies his bat on deck as Pat Duyck prepares to swing away at bat.

Take me out to



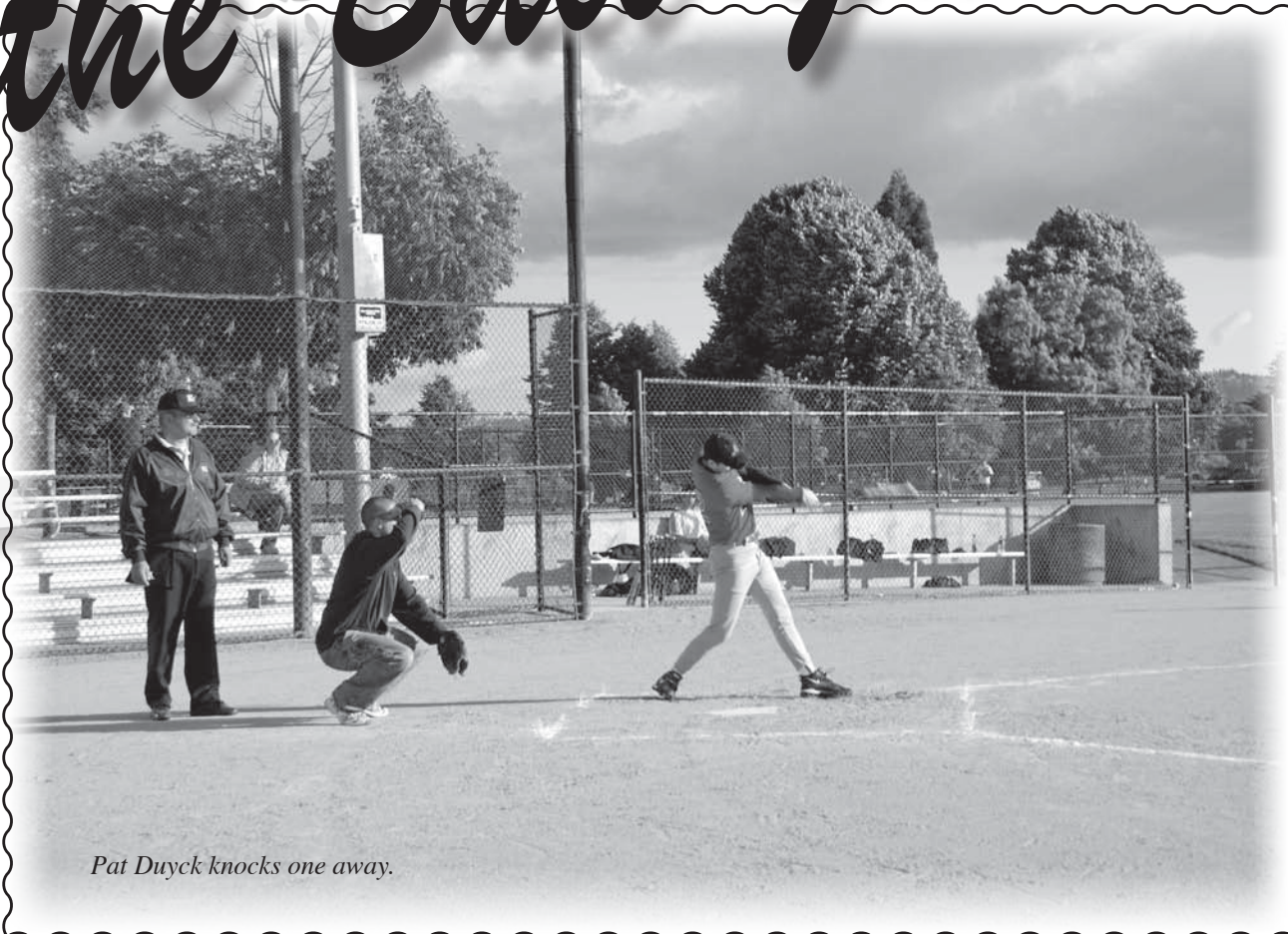
Mike Crump makes a catch, stopping an Oregonian player just before he reaches first base.



Mike Magee lines up a perfect swing.



the Ball Game...



Pat Duyck knocks one away.

Corps of Engineers Photos



2007-2008 Leadership Development Program

brings challenges, benefits, to new members

By Diana Fredlund, Public Affairs Office

A baker's dozen was the lucky number this year when the Portland District announced its new Leadership Development Program members. Thirteen District employees and two facilitators will spend time together giving presentations, reading, exploring leadership principles and seeing them in action, as well as researching an overarching capstone project designed to task personnel management, teambuilding and project development skills.



Here is a brief introduction to the members of the 2007-2008 Leadership Development Program:

Stephen Schlenker, Engineering and Construction Division

Schlenker has worked for the Corps since 1995, when he began with the Hydraulic Design Section. With a bachelor's degree in civil engineering and a master's and Ph.D. in civil and environmental engineering, Schlenker enjoys providing design expertise on just about anything to do with water, from fish passage systems to navigation locks. When he's not designing stuff for the Corps, Schlenker can be found hiking in the Gorge with his two energetic dogs, Maya and Chinook.

William "Skip" Fowler, Bonneville Lock and Dam

Fowler heard the call of the outdoors so clearly, he began volunteering with the Corps of Engineers park ranger staff at Arkabutla Lake, a small project located just outside of his hometown of Memphis, Tenn. The match was so good he entered the Student Career Employment Program, which he completed and moved to Bonneville Lock and Dam as a park ranger. When asked what period of time he'd like to travel to, Fowler would travel back to that first day when he met his wife. "She and I have provided strength and support to each other throughout our marriage," Fowler said, adding that they agree fate had a hand in bringing them together. Although she wasn't available for comment, we think Mrs. Fowler would just smile and consider her husband a sweet romantic.



Dianne Bentz, Operations Division

Bentz is currently the acting administrative officer for Operations Division, but her federal service began in Mannheim, Germany, when she started working for the Housing Division for the U.S. Army. In 1987 she moved to Portland District as an administrative assistant to the District Comptroller. As many employees can attest, Bentz, as a deployment coordinator for the Emergency Management Section, was the anchor for District deployees working on hurricane recovery or the Global War on Terror. Her attention to detail and organizational skills made it possible for deployees to focus on their tasks, knowing their TDY vouchers, pay issues and timesheets were being well taken care of. When asked which animal she would like to be, Bentz said a jaguar, adding, "They are sleek and fast. And they always look great in black."

Richard Benoit, Operations Division

Benoit joined the Corps as the District's dive coordinator in February 2006. Before that he was the director of recruit physical fitness for the U.S. Coast Guard's boot camp in Camp May, N.J., where he taught the swim and surface swim-rescue program. As befits a sports-minded individual, Benoit enjoys recreational activities in all seasons. "Whether it's skiing in winter, baseball in spring, camping in summer or kayaking in fall, as long as I can do it with my wife and kids, it's a personal favorite." Although he hails from Boston, Mass., his co-workers haven't held it against him ... yet.



Patrick Duyck, Engineering and Construction Division

As a Portland native graduating from Portland State University with a degree in civil engineering, Duyck was glad to find a job close to home. Even before getting his degree, Duyck had joined the Portland District as an engineering technician in the Stay-in-School program; after graduating from Portland State he entered the Engineering-in-Training program here. After completing his EIT rotations, he moved into a full-time position as a structural engineer in the Design Branch. When asked what animal he would choose to be, Duyck said the horse, because they are hardworking, loyal, honorable and always dependable. These traits will become even more important to him as Duyck and his wife welcome their first child into their lives sometime this month.

Elizabeth Hall, Engineering and Construction Division

When asked what animal or insect she would choose to be, Hall pointed to a caterpillar, which on closer reflection, fits her approach to life very well. "A caterpillar spends the first half of its life ... gathering a small perspective and creating a very narrow world view." Later, after a mid-life change, it becomes a butterfly, where "the view becomes more expansive and [changes] rapidly." After graduating from the University of Portland with a degree in electrical engineering, Hall barely waited for her wings to dry before testing them. Since joining the Corps of Engineers in 2000, Hall has deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq, worked on pumping stations to help restore the Everglades in Florida and helped develop modernized fire protection at the District's Columbia River projects.



Michael Fuchs, Engineering and Construction Division

Although Fuchs has a desk in the District Resident Office, he assists the Columbia River projects with contract administration, a job that takes him to project sites to verify contractor work or safety compliance. After work, he can often be found on the Oregon Coast. "My favorite pastime is surfing glassy waves in the crisp Oregon morning fog with curious seals," Fuchs said. Surfing is a long-time passion of his, since he grew up in Kona, Hawaii, where he surfed the shallow reef breaks. He attended Montana State University in Bozeman and graduated with a degree in electrical engineering and a minor in business.





Dianne Luiz, Willamette Valley Project

Since she joined the Portland District in 1994, Luiz has seen many of the Corps missions up close. She began as a park ranger at Bonneville Lock and Dam, helping educate the public about the hydropower mission. A friend working as an electrician sparked her interest in power plant operations and encouraged Luiz to apply for the District's 4-year power plant training program. She decided to apply and completed the course in 2002; she is now a power plant electrician at Lookout Point in the Willamette Valley. When asked who she would most like to talk with, Luiz was hard-pressed to limit her choices, but selected the children's author Dr. Seuss. "Dr. Seuss has given us an amazing gift," Luiz said. "I admire his creativity, humor and love for wordplay."

Michael Ott, Engineering and Construction Division

Ott began his public service career in 2000 as a student intern with Northwestern Division while attending Portland State University. After graduating with a degree in civil engineering, Ott entered the Engineering in Training program at the District. Hydrology and water resources remained a favorite as he transitioned through the many engineering offices and he accepted a position as a hydraulic engineer after completing the EIT program. In 2004, Ott deployed to Kirkuk, Iraq, where he served as a GIS specialist with the Gulf Region North District. When asked who Ott would choose to speak with if he could, he selected Alexander Hamilton. "I would like to know if he missed Aaron Burr on purpose or not." (Burr shot and killed Hamilton in a duel after Hamilton missed.)



Cathy Winters, The Dalles/John Day/Willow Creek Project

Winters has called The Dalles home since she relocated from Programs, Planning and Project Management in Robert Duncan Plaza to accept an administrative assistant position at The Dalles/John Day/Willow Creek Project in 2002. Although working in federal service since 1998, Winters enjoys telling folks about some of her other jobs, which included working for the Portland Beavers baseball team, Alaska Sightseeing/Cruise West cruise ships, as well as attorneys, accountants and a food brokerage firm. When asked what time period she would most like to visit, Winters chose the pioneer days, "a time where people were content to be with their family and friends and not be tied to some electronic device."

Karla Ellis, Operations Division

Ellis is happiest when she is outdoors – so much so that her career has been shaped by her love of nature. After graduating from Portland State University in 2002 with a degree in environmental science, Ellis accepted a position as a physical scientist in the District's Regulatory Office. She specializes in coastal and energy-related projects along the Columbia River requesting Department of the Army permits. When asked which animal or insect she would like to be, Ellis selected the humpback whale. "I'd get to take a trip each year to two of my favorite places, Hawaii and Alaska," she said. "I'd also provide great entertainment while enjoying the sun and the waves."





LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Corps of Engineers Photos



Sondra Ruckwardt, Hydroelectric Design Center

Ruckwardt joined the Portland District in 2001 through the Engineer-in-Training program. After finishing her rotational assignments, Ruckwardt accepted a position as a mechanical engineer with HDC, where her work revolves around cranes and fire protection systems. After graduating from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash., Ruckwardt worked for a private engineering and architecture firm before beginning her federal service. As a dedicated alumnus, far as Ruckwardt is concerned, all roads lead to Gonzaga.

Ronda Filer, Operations Division

Since 1990, Filer has been trusted with the District's pocketbook, in one form or another. From her beginning as a voucher clerk processing invoices for payment, Filer now oversees all budget matters for the 18 Channels and Harbors projects handled by the Portland District. When asked what time period she would most like to visit, she chose the Swing Era of the 1940s and 1950s. "Much of life then was about entertainment, music, singing and dance all of which I am passionate about," Filer said. In addition to all things musical, Filer enjoys motorcycling, roller skating and skiing – hopefully not at the same time!



FACILITATORS




Reed McDowell, Engineering and Construction Division

As a young Engineering-in-Training member with the Seattle District in 1979, McDowell fell in love with construction management and volunteered to join the new resident office staff for the West Seattle Freeway Bridge construction project. It was the beginning of a beautiful relationship, according to McDowell, who has worked construction-related jobs for the Corps ever since, including assignments in Idaho, Washington, Alaska, Egypt and Germany. In 1996 McDowell became the resident engineer for the Portland District, a job he still calls his dream job. As a 2000-2001 LDP alumnus, McDowell is looking forward to being a facilitator this year and expects to learn and grow from this experience, "probably more than the students themselves!"

Debby Chenoweth, retired Corps employee

Chenoweth is the first retired civilian employee to act as an LDP facilitator. With more than 35 years of service to the Corps of Engineers, five of which were as the chief of the District's operations division, Chenoweth brings extensive hands-on management experience to this, her second opportunity to facilitate the LDP members. "As a retiree she has greater freedom in her schedule to participate in the regularly scheduled classes," said Col. Tom O'Donovan, Portland District Commander. "Knowing her enthusiasm for keeping busy, she'd probably disagree about that freedom."



Matching facilitators and LDP members can be challenging, because the District strives to provide as much diversity in skills, career paths, and personal characteristics as possible. McDowell and Chenoweth are enthusiastic about the group assembled for this year's program. O'Donovan, who co-facilitated with Davis Moriuchi last year, is looking forward to great things from this group. "I'm very pleased Reed and Debby are available and have agreed to mentor our up-and-coming leaders in this way. Everyone should have a great year." 



Exchanging ideas improves hydro design

Canadian intern brings new vision

By Amy Echols, Public Affairs Office

A little professional networking went a long way last year when Lori Rux, then in the Corps' Hydroelectric Design Center and Jean-Paul Rigg of Hydro-Québec first discussed an internship to share information and learn from each other's organizations. On hand at the same conference, held in Portland, was Hydro-Québec's Valérie Tremblay from Montréal, attending her first professional conference. Rigg approached her with the idea of returning to Portland, this time for a three-month internship with HDC.

With her personable manner and fluent English (French is Québec's official language), Tremblay shared her knowledge with Portland District colleagues and expanded her perspective on hydro design. "We had been collaborating with Hydro-Québec for several years, primarily in the area of risk-based asset management," explained Rux, now Northwestern Division's Hydropower Program Manager. "The internship provided an opportunity to strengthen that relationship, enabling our technical staffs to exchange ideas and improve equipment design practices and tools."

Hydro-Québec generates, transmits and distributes hydroelectric power for Québec and is the world's largest producer of hydroelectric power. Depending on the energy

demand, Hydro-Québec exports hydroelectricity to other provinces in Canada and to the northeastern United States.

Hydro-Québec covered travel and living expenses for this three-month assignment and Tremblay remained on their payroll. The Corps provided workspace and a team of collaborative professionals to guide her developmental assignment. Not only did the Corps employees take Tremblay along on tours of projects and field sites, they arranged many outings to Portland-area sites and other points of interest. "I stayed in touch with my family and my colleagues at Hydro-Québec but I certainly did not miss the cold winter in Montréal."



Tremblay, left, works on improvements to generator rewind guide specifications with HDC's Scott Cottner. Tremblay spent three months in Portland District as an intern.

"Before Valérie visited Corps offices and projects, we supplied her with passport information and a Letter of Agreement between HDC and Hydro-Québec," said Scott Cotner, HDC, who was Valérie's primary contact. "The letter authorized and described the purpose of the visit to the appropriate security offices."

Security concerns proved more difficult. "While she had building and project access, we were unsuccessful in obtaining the clearance necessary for her to access our computer system," Cotner said. Without Local Area Network access, Tremblay used her laptop computer and a secure high speed internet connection through Hydro-Québec's system to exchange electronic files and emails with her HDC team.

One of Tremblay significant projects was to update HDC's Generator Rewind Guide Specification, including suggesting improvements based on Hydro-Québec practices. While this comparison of practices revealed many more similarities than differences, those differences provided an opportunity for informative technical exchanges.

One of the differences was the use of the "blackout" test on new generator stator windings. Hydro-Québec now requires the blackout test be performed, based in part on discussions with the Corps several years ago. "It was very beneficial to discuss the experiences of Hydro-Québec with the test, including differences in which method is used and when in the winding, manufacturing and installation process the test is performed," Tremblay explained. "I'll share many of these technical exchanges with Hydro-Québec engineers."


Tremblay learned and compared the structures of the organizations. "The role and responsibilities of the engineers and the project management at HDC and Hydro-Québec are quite similar, but there are

still some interesting differences that I will share with my co-workers."

"Valérie very graciously presented an overview on Hydro-Québec's organization and structure for a group of Engineers-in-Training," said HDC Director Brent Mahan. "She was a good match for our organization."



Portland District Commander Col. Tom O'Donovan presents a District coin to Tremblay in appreciation of her efforts during her stay as she prepared to return to her native Quebec.

Will the Corps host more interns in the future? "Canadian professional exchanges with the United States are more common than other countries since we already have existing contacts between Canadian and US agencies. A large portion of the technology and the manufacturers are the same so issues and problems are more common, but so is the resulting development and application of solutions," explained Mahan. "We'll keep looking for the right opportunities for these exchanges." 



CORPS PARTNERSHIPS

Corps of Engineers Photos



He Keeps Coming Back

Third time in Portland District is charm for Kevin Brice

By Amy Echols, Public Affairs Office

You may have seen him before, and now you see him again: Last month the Portland District welcomed back Kevin Brice as the Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management. Brice may appear to be new to the District, but he's already had three other assignments in the District.



Before retiring as a lieutenant colonel after 21 years of military service, Brice added his third assignment as the deputy district commander. Most recently, Brice was the acting deputy division engineer and the chief of the Business Management Division at Northwestern Division.

During his first assignment, just out of the master's program at Oregon State University in 1987, Brice applied his education as a project engineer and field inspector at the Elk Creek Resident Office.

During his second assignment as the deputy project manager for the Dredge and Plant Project, Brice deployed to the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill recovery in Alaska. As the commander of Task Force Castle, he coordinated use of the *Yaquina* and *Essayons* in recovering oil. Despite the considerable logistical and politically charged elements of this assignment, Brice remembers the fun he had "hitchhiking" around Prince William Sound: one day traveling by Coast Guard ship, the next catching a floatplane, a fishing boat and then back to a dredge.

Having several military assignments in the same district and now civilian employment here was very lucky, Brice said. He is looking forward to digging into the details of his job with the wisdom of a fulfilling career under him. He recalls his experience during his Bosnian deployment: "Those were tough, dark days, when I was a mouse among elephants. But I can look back now, with the gift of time, and relish in the accomplishments and feel good about my work."

Brice received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville in 1978. He married his high school sweetheart and is busy this summer with his family: one daughter is getting married; one just graduated from college and a third is entering her senior year of high school.

FROM THE FIELD

In Memoriam

Joseph K. Bratton, 81, a lieutenant general who was a former chief of the Army Corps of Engineers, died of an aneurysm June 2 at Virginia Hospital Center.

Gen. Bratton was the top official with the Corps of Engineers from 1980 until 1984 and oversaw the doubling of military construction for the Army and Air Force. The Army family housing program doubled under his command, and he emphasized the corps' contribution to national preparedness.

He was born in St. Paul, Minn., and graduated third in the Class of 1948 at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He received a master's degree in nuclear engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1959.

His wife of 55 years, Louise, died in 2006. A son, John Bratton, died in 1993. Survivors include four children, a sister, 14 grandchildren and a great-grandson.